GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2698
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Hazards caused by Mobile Towers
Banerjee Shri Kalyan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the environmental equilibrium is affected due to erection of mobile towers in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether due to operation of mobile towers people suffers from illness and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTAND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had constituted an Expert Committee to study the possible impacts of communication towers on wildlife including Birds and Bees on 30th August 2010 under the Chairmanship of Dr Asad Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society. The Expert Committee submitted its report to MoEFCC in September 2011. As per the report of the Expert Committee while there are indications that the Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) affect biological systems of animals, birds and insects, it also points out that exact correlation between radiation of communication towers and health of wildlife is so far not established. The report also states more research is required to assess the true impact of EMR on free-living floral and faunal species, including birds and bees in the country. However, this Ministry has issued advisory in August 2012 to minimize the impact of mobile towers on wildlife including birds and bees.

(b) & (c) There are no conclusive data available on the issue of Health Hazards due to radiation emitted from cell mobile towers. India has adopted Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Department of Telecommunications has prescribed stricter precautionary limits for EMF radiation from mobile towers which are one-tenth of the limits prescribed internationally by ICNIRP. Electromagnetic Radiation is not a pollutant under Environmental Protection Act.

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